1	2	3	4	5	6
19	Rajasthan	40	31	09	29/06/2003 (3) 07/06/2004 10/07/2004 20/10/2004 20/02/2005 25/02/2005 08/03/2005
20	Sikkim	03	01	02	13/03/2002 18/05/2003
21	Uttaranchal	09	09	—	—

Lok Adalats/Fast Track Courts

545. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to set up more Lok Adalats in the country to clear pending cases in High Court and lower courts;

(b) if so, the number of Lok Adalats at present functioning in various States;

(c) how many cases have so far been cleared by these Lok Adalats;

(d) to what extent it has reduced the number of pending cases in High Courts and Lower Courts; and

(e) whether in view of the successful functioning of the adalats Government are considering to provide help and assistance to the States to set up more and more Fast Track Courts/Lok Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. More and more Lok Adalats are being set up and are being organised to clear pending cases in High Courts and lower courts.

(b) and (c) As on 30.9.2005, 4,86,080 Lok Adalats have been held in which more than 1.83 crore cases have been settled throughout the country.

(d) Organising Lok Adalats is a continuing process and by the very nature of the purposes of holding Lok Adalats, the same are need based. The Lok Adalats are playing an important role in reducing the pendency in High Courts and lower courts.

(e) Yes, Sir. All help and assistance is provided by the Government to States for setting up more and more Lok Adalats.

Amendment to Civil Procedure Code

546. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civil Procedure Code has been amended recently;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a number of the amendments have affected the weaker sections of the society being unable to meet the new limitation period prescribed for various procedural stages;

(c) whether lawyers have opposed these amendments;

(d) whether Government proposes to reconsider some of the anti poor amendments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) After holding wide range consultations, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 was last amended by the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2002 (Act 22 of 2002). It is not correct to say that a number of amendments have affected the weaker sections of the society being unable to meet the new limitation period prescribed for various procedural stages.

(c) and (d) The Salem Advocates Bar Association, Tamil Nadu, has challenged the constitutional validity of the amendments made to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 in 1999 and 2002 and the Supreme Court has rejected the same in Salem Advocates Bar Association, Tamil Nadu *vs.* Union of India [(2003) 1 SSC 49]. It is not correct to say that these amendments are anti-poor. No proposals for reconsidering the amendments are under the consideration of the Government.

(e) Does not arise.